

# Facts About Lung Cancer

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## What You Should Know

- Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related death in Michigan and in the United States.<sup>1,2</sup>
- Lung cancer is the second most frequently diagnosed cancer in Michigan, behind only prostate cancer.<sup>3</sup>
- Michigan ranks 21<sup>st</sup> in the nation in lung cancer mortality.<sup>4</sup>
- Based on randomized controlled trials, screening for lung cancer with chest X-ray or sputum cytology has not been found to result in a reduction in lung cancer mortality.<sup>5</sup>

## Risk Factors

- Smoking is the leading risk factor for lung cancer. More than 95 percent of lung cancers that occur among current smokers were found to be a result of smoking.<sup>5</sup>
- If overall adult smoking prevalence in Michigan is reduced by 42 percent and adult per capita consumption in the state is reduced by 25 percent, the Michigan Cancer Consortium (MCC) estimates that 1,100 lung cancer deaths will be prevented annually among Michigan adults.
- If the proportion of Michigan youth grades 9-12 who report smoking cigarettes during the past 30 days is reduced to 16 percent, the MCC estimates that 2,389 premature deaths due to smoking-related causes, including lung cancer, will be prevented.
- Nonsmokers who breathe second-hand smoke also have an increased risk of developing lung cancer. Non-smoking spouses of smokers have a 30 percent greater risk of developing lung cancer than spouses of non-smokers.<sup>6</sup>
- Other factors that increase an individual's risk of developing lung cancer include

increasing age, a personal history of lung cancer, and exposure to asbestos or other specific cancer-causing agents in the workplace or the environment.<sup>7</sup>

- In Michigan, more than 28 percent of individuals diagnosed with lung cancer in 2002 were between the ages of 50 and 64. Approximately 66 percent were 65 years of age or older.<sup>3</sup>

## Incidence and Mortality

- During 2002, a total of 7,020 men and women in Michigan were diagnosed with lung cancer.<sup>3</sup>
- During 2003, a total of 5,680 men and women in Michigan died of lung cancer.<sup>1</sup>
- During 2003, more Michigan women died from lung cancer than from breast cancer (2,506 vs. 1,425).<sup>1</sup>
- In Michigan, the incidence of lung cancer has declined for the tenth straight year. It still exceeds the national incidence rates.<sup>2,3</sup>

## Stage at Diagnosis

- During 2002, 19.5 percent of lung cancer cases diagnosed in Michigan were found at a local stage.<sup>3</sup>
- Although survival is increased when lung cancer is detected and treated early, most cases of lung cancer are diagnosed after it has spread to the lymph nodes and other organs. The five-year survival rate for all stages of lung cancer combined is 15.3 percent.<sup>2</sup>

## Risk Behaviors

- Approximately 25 percent of Michigan men and 22 percent of Michigan women smoke cigarettes, significantly increasing their risk of developing lung cancer.<sup>7</sup>



Michigan residents more likely to smoke are those with lower household incomes, lower education levels, and younger ages.<sup>7</sup>

➤ Smoking begins at an early age in Michigan. Twenty-three percent of Michigan high school students report smoking one or more days in the previous month, while 11 percent report frequent smoking (more than 20 of the previous 30 days). Fifty-eight percent of high school students who currently smoke have tried unsuccessfully to quit.<sup>8</sup>

**References:**

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5. Cancer Prevention Study II, from Changes in Cigarette-Related Disease Risks and Their Implication for Prevention and Control, National Cancer Institute, NIH publication no. 97-4213, 1997
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7. Michigan Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2004 Preliminary Data
8. Michigan Youth Behavioral Risk Factor Survey, 2003